under sericulture, upgrade reeling facilities, improve finishing processes strengthern seed supply, cocoon & silk testing systems, in all four varieties of silk;

(iv) Popularisation and transfer of technologies developed to the field through the States' extension machinery, training to the beneficiaries, organizing various awareness programmes, etc;

(v) Under the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) of the Ministry of Rural Development financial assistance is being provided to various States for implementation of sericulture projects of all varieties of silk with the technical assistance of CSB;

(vi) Establishing vertical linkages between the raw silk producers and the industry; and

(vii) Establishing quality certifications systems for silkworm seeds, cocoons, yarn and fabric.

(c) and (d) The Central Silk Board is implementing the following scheme/project in Orissa for development of silk industry:—

(1) **Catalytic Development Programme (CDP)** — Under this programme, an amount of Rs. 50.62 lakh has been released to Orissa State during 2002-2003 for providing financial assistance to beneficiaries regarding rearing appliances/farm equipments, drip irrigation, quality disinfecting materials, construction of rearing houses, crop insurance support; tasar/eri/muga seeds and commercial seed etc.

(2) **Project on conservation of wild modal tasar eco-races in Simlipal biosphere, Mayurbhanj district, Orissa**—The total cost of the project is Rs. 2.60 crores for a period of 5 years from 2001 to 2006. The main objectives of the project is to conserve the existing Modal and Bogaei eco-tasar silkworm races populations in the Similipal Biosphere of Orissa State and to harvest continuous yield of cocoons from the conserved population.

Funds for Assam Silk Industry

1693. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are providing funds for reviving the indigenous Assam Silk Industry.

(b) if so, whether such a revival package will be restricted to Assam only or other North Eastern States would also be given such packages for industries (particularly labour intensive) peculiar to particular North-Eastern States and whether any study has been made in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Central Silk Board is implementing various Centrally Sponsored and Central Sector Schemes in the North Eastern States. 90% grants-in-aid is provided to the North-Eastern States for development of sericulture and silk industry. During X plan, the thrust of the Scheme in the North East Region is on development of non-mulberry sericulture. Under the scheme financial assistance is provided to the States for critical inputs in Eri, Muga and Tasar development in order to develop seed production, expand host plant cultivation, improve farm infrastructure, train and equip farmers with essential tools, upgrade reeling and processing technologies etc. During 2002-2003 under Catalytic Development Scheme, the Central Silk Board has released a sum of Rs. 2.94 crores to all the North-Eastern States of which Rs. 1.19 crores has been released to Assam. The processes performance and impact of the scheme are being monitored by mechanisms set up within the Government with a view to apply correctives and ensure goal and target achievement.

Aritisan Credit Cards (ACC)

†1694. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced to provide, Artisan Credit Cards (ACC) to two lakh artisans this year, under a new scheme;

(b) whether a special package costing Rs. 70 crore has been prepared for the development of textile sector of Jammu and Kashmir, whether similar packages have been prepared for any other State of the country;

(c) if so, the names of such States and the details of amount to be granted to these States as speical packages; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.